

Leicester, Mond. Evng.

Dec. 11. 1865.

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Dear Mr. Garrison,

Mrs. May writes me that she was at
y^r. house yest. afternoon, & found you at
home, - Fanny also, returned with you from
the wedding. I am very glad to hear such
a good report of your long journey and
many labors, - for labors they must have
been, however pleasant. When I learned
how close together your appointments came,
& heard from Frank how much you were
tasking yourself, at single meetings, I
felt quite sure your throat would give
away, & refuse to second you, before y^r.
time had half expired. I rejoice to find
it otherwise. I think it really quite a
marvel that you should have been able
to continue speaking for so long a time,
have kept every appointment, and
completed your programme. "The
Clerk of the weather" too, as Quincy
would say, has on the whole been very

favorable to you! probably, finding that
Slavery is abolished, he has concluded to
"Come down" (as the coon did to Capt
Lockett), and no longer pursue you
with storm, wind, & rain. In fact, all
Slavery's allies seem to be deserting her,
saving a few "dimmy crabs" and James
Brooks of New York.

I had intended to go to Port
Wednesday morning, - hoping to see you there,
& perhaps get a Board Meeting for Friday
forenoon, - as there is a variety of business
to be considered. But as you are going
to New York, to attend a meeting there
that day, of course you cannot help me
in that plan. And as we have
waited for you a while already, we
can just as well wait a little longer.
So I shall probably not be in Porton before
Thursday evening, as our County
Temperance Society is to hold its Annual
Meeting at Millbury on Thursday, and
I feel serious to attend it if I can. Co

— Pray excuse my half sheets. —

I suppose you will not be long absent in New York, and that I may expect to find you at home again the following week.

— And I hope we shall have from you a very full account of your tour, — your experiences & your impressions; & that it may be very circumstantial. For the

brief remainder of the Liberator's wonderful career, I hope all other writers will have ^{leave} to stand aside, for the most part, and that you will thoroughly give to its closing numbers your own "Sign & Seal". What a 35 years' work it has been, to be sure!

— I am very sorry to see the "Episcopal Freedmen's Aid Society" taking the field. Such a course is intensely blind, bigoted, selfish, & by no means helpful to the freedmen's cause. I trust it may prove a failure, for that reason. The Episc. Ch., as a body, has no heart to the Cause. Its few truly liberal men are, or can easily be induced to be, helpers of the

Freedmen's Commission. I hope they will
have the independence to resist this narrow move-
ment. But the Church spirit is intensely
powerful - is indeed ^{almost} the only powerful thing, in
that Communion. There is danger, now, -
Such is the strength of sectarian feeling in the land,
- that one denomination after another will copy
this evil example, & the strength of the people
be largely expended & frittered away on offices,
organizations, machinery, & rival posts &
stations, instead of being concentrated for the
Freedmen's more sure & rapid advancement.
- And yet I can see ^{that} some benefit may possibly
come of the sectarian movement: - but it
will be more likely to be "Christ preached of
Contentions & strife", than of "good will". - The
"Friends" were among the first, if not the very
first, to set this sectarian example. They
have done a deal of good, I am sure, but
have chosen to do it by their exclusive
agencies, & get a sort of exclusive credit,
when they might, more advantageously I believe,
have joined forces with the National Organization.
- But how many will give their money for sectarian
aggrandizement & glory, sooner than for mercy's simple
work!

Very truly Yrs, J. A. M. May Jr